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Indiana
Department of Education
Glenda Ritz, NBCT
Indiana Superintendent of Public Instruction

2016-17 Formative Assessment Grant
Deadline: September 16, 2016 at 4:00 p.m. (Eastern)

Frequently Asked Questions
Updated: 8/22/16

1) Where can I find more information regarding this grant?

Please feel free to visit the Formative Assessment Grant website at http://www.doe.in.gov/assessment/formative-assessment-grant or email the Office of Student Assessment at FormativeAssessments@doe.in.gov.

2) What is the purpose of this grant?

House Enrolled Act 1001 (the Budget bill) appropriated $12,000,000 to the Indiana Department of Education (the Department) for the purpose of providing grant funding to schools for formative tests to identify students that require remediation.

3) Who is eligible to receive this grant?

All Indiana public school corporations, charter schools, and accredited nonpublic schools are eligible to apply for this grant.

4) New! How much funding will each corporation receive?

The Indiana General Assembly allocated $12 million for the 2016-17 Formative Assessment Grant opportunity.

If _all_ public school, charter school and accredited nonpublic school students participate in the Formative Assessment Test Grant program in 2016-17, the estimated allocation is $12.73 per student for both English/Language Arts and Mathematics combined (approximately $6.36 per student for ELA and $6.36 per student for Math). This estimated per-pupil amount may be used for planning purposes by local schools. Final per pupil amounts will be determined by the Department after the _Request to Participate_ form submission window has closed and calculations based on statewide student participation are completed.

Participating schools will receive the maximum per student amount for students who participate in both English/Language Arts and Mathematics. If a student participates in only one content area, the corporation will receive the maximum per student per test amount for that content area only.

5) New! **What contracting options are available for the 2016-17 Formative Assessment Grant?**

Only the Local Contract is available for the 2016-17 school year.

Local Contracts – Participating public school corporations, charter schools and accredited nonpublic schools will enter into local contracts with approved formative assessment vendors and pay the selected vendor(s) directly for services rendered.

Once the *Request to Participate* form submission window has closed and the Department has calculated the state's maximum per pupil amount (based on statewide student participation counts), the Department will disburse funds to participating school corporations, charter schools and accredited nonpublic schools.

6) New! **When can schools begin using formative tests?**

Schools may begin to utilize formative assessment tests as soon as desired, however, it is important to note that the final per pupil, per content area funding will not be finalized until after the *Request to Participate* form submission window has closed and calculations based on statewide student participation have been completed. As such, the corporation/school will be responsible for any costs incurred above the final per pupil, per content area amount.

7) Can these grant funds be used to purchase any formative assessment test?

These grant funds can only be used to purchase approved formative assessment tests. Please see the 2016-17 Formative Assessment Approved Vendors and Tests section on the Formative Assessment website for more details: http://www.doe.in.gov/assessment/formative-assessment-grant

8) What type of flexibility is available with formative assessment tests purchased with this grant?

The following is determined at the local level:
- Formative assessment test vendor(s) selected
- Formative assessment test window(s)
- Student Population or Grade levels that will be served (i.e., one grade level, multiple grade levels, or specific student populations, such as the bottom 25% of students, etc.)
- Content areas targeted (i.e., English Language Arts and/or Math)
- Schools selected (i.e., all schools in a corporation or select schools targeted by the corporation)

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9) New! **How has the Formative Assessment Grant *Request to Participate* form changed from 2015-16 to 2016-17?**

2015-16	2016-17
Grades 3-10 funding was determined first; Grades K-2 were funded with remaining dollars	Funding for all Grades K-10 will be determined at once
Application questions were at the school level	Application questions will be at the corporation level
Both State Contracts and Local Contracts were available	Only Local Contracts are available
Schools could select only one approved vendor/test per content area and grade level	Corporations can select multiple approved vendors/tests per content area and grade level

10) What professional development will my corporation receive regarding the use of formative assessment tests?

Corporations are strongly encouraged to research the basic professional development that will be offered by potential vendors (before entering into local contracts) to ensure the vendor(s) selected will provide adequate training opportunities to ensure educators know how to appropriately utilize the formative assessment test(s) data with fidelity to assist with individualizing/differentiating instruction and remediation for students.

Corporations that desire more advanced or customized professional development are welcome to use local funding to cover the additional costs associated with such training.

11) What can the Formative Assessment Grant funding cover?

Formative Assessment Grant dollars can only be used to provide the following:

- English/Language Arts and/or Math formative assessment tests that meet specific criteria;
- Basic professional development to assist staff with formative assessment test implementation fidelity and appropriate use of formative assessment test data;
- Diagnostic analysis of student performance;
- Student performance reports and analysis for teachers and parents; and

- Differentiated learning tools for educators, students and parents that support areas of instructional need

This FAQ document will be updated multiple times throughout the Request to Participate form window. Please be sure to review the "Updated" date section at the top of the FAQ document to determine when new updates have been made available.